

Diputado Arias and Quijada stepped in to mediate between the doctors union and the police an to defend the protesters, and the police responded by beating them too. They identified themselves to the police as members of the Legislative Assembly, but the police continued to beat them. Fortunately their bodyguards stepped in to protect them before the were terribly injured.

We disapprove of in the strongest terms the use of police violence against the government officials. This unconscionable violation of human rights and democracy threatens the 1992 Peace Accords and could lead to grave consequences. Furthermore, we strongly disapprove of the police violence against protesters. This violence has been increasing recently with anti-CAFTA protests in El Salvador. The Salvadoran Interior Minister endorsed the police violence against protesters that occurred on April 14 and wrongfully called the protesters "terrorists."

This is not acceptable. This will not go unnoticed by the United States and by international human rights movements. Be assured that, we will pursue an investigation into this matter to the fullest.

On May 3, 2005, Ambassador León sent the following reply:

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUCINICH: We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated April 29, 2005 in which you express your concern on the apparent use of police force against two congresspeople of the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly, Dr. Salvador Arias and Dr. Zoila Quijada, while seemingly defending members of the Social Security Doctors Union (SIMETRIS).

To that respect, we have proceeded to send your letter to the pertinent authorities in El Salvador who are already aware of your preoccupation and will soon deliver you their response.

Please accept Mr. Representative Kucinich the assurances of our consideration and esteem.

#### INTRODUCTION OF "DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY INVESTMENT TRUST"

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my good friend and colleague Rep. RALPH REGULA (R-OH) in introducing the "Digital Opportunity Investment Trust Act."

Mr. Speaker, I have long believed that when the Federal Communications Commission decides to proceed with auctions as a means of granting licenses to the public's airwaves, that the public deserves to reap the benefits. These benefits should manifest themselves not only in the more rapid offering of new, competitive commercial wireless services or the deployment of technological innovations, but also in the "dividends" that can be reaped by re-investing the auction money wisely. The legislation we are introducing today, proposes taking auction revenue and creating a permanent trust fund in order to fund grants for public interest telecommunications initiatives. I believe harnessing this resource and re-investing it for such initiatives will be vital to our national economic security and for leaving to the next generation the cultural and educational assets of our great country in an accessible digital form.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring that the research and development into the software and telecommunications tools that will animate the technologies for use in classrooms and workplaces around the country is a sound investment. Making available additional resources for public televisions and radio stations for their needs in the digital era is also vital. Finally, our nation's libraries, museums, universities are great repositories of information and possess the tremendous wealth of our cultural heritage. These treasurers can and ought to be digitized in a way that makes them accessible to all our citizens, both online and over-the-air using our national public broadcasting system. This will help to ensure we have an informed and skilled citizenry for our civic institutions. Putting these great educational resources at the heart of the technological transformation our society is undergoing will strengthen our democracy in fundamental ways.

For all of these reasons, I believe we must rise to the challenge of funding advanced research and development for education and technology training in a way that reflects the urgent need to do so and the current, inadequate resources being put to these efforts. Telecommunications technology has an awesome potential to affect change positively by driving economic growth, preparing our citizens for the tough challenges ahead, and enriching our democracy. Yet without a plan, it will remain just that—merely the "potential" and "promise" but not the reality. That's why I believe we ought to reinvest the auction resources we obtain from winning bidders to the public's airways. A permanent trust fund built from these funds will go a long way in meeting the need and that is what our legislation is designed and intended to do.

#### NATIONAL ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw attention to the first annual National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day today, May 19, 2005. This day seeks to raise awareness among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders about the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on their community and to highlight AIDS prevention and treatment opportunities.

AIDS has claimed the lives of over 20 million people worldwide since it was first diagnosed in 1981, and the numbers continue to grow at an alarming rate. An estimated 5,500 of 750,000 Americans who face the perils of AIDS today are Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, but with the fastest-growing racial/ethnic population in the nation, this number is increasing at a staggering rate. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the number of AA/PIs living with AIDS has increased 10 percent annually over the past five years.

Many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders living with HIV/AIDS too often do not take the steps necessary to prevent and combat the disease due to cultural stigmas around issues

of sex, sexuality, and drug use. Other obstacles include the fact that nearly 40 percent of AA/PIs have limited English proficiency and 13 percent live below the federal poverty line. Nearly one in five are uninsured, and many others lack adequate health insurance. That is why this day is immensely important in communicating the facts and preventative practices regarding HIV/AIDS. With increased national awareness and improved communication, HIV/AIDS information will become more widely available and more effective in crossing the social, linguistic, and economic barriers this population faces.

It is also critically important that we expand the budgets of the CDC, especially the Office of Minority Health and the National Institutes of Health, and reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act to ensure that HIV/AIDS is addressed seriously and with adequate resources. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders face a serious health threat, and they are just one segment of the American population which battles this deadly disease on a daily basis. Our financial support is critical in providing information, medicine, care, and ultimately a cure for this debilitating disease.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the first National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and working to enact healthcare solutions to the HIV/AIDS crisis.

#### BIKE TARIFF SUSPENSION BILLS

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing seven bills that will waive tariffs for specialty bike parts not produced domestically.

The bicycle industry is an important part of our economy. There are over 6,000 bicycle shops and 2,000 companies that deal with bicycle manufacturing with tens of thousands of employees. These tariff waivers will reduce costs for the bicycle industry and will allow the savings to be passed onto the more than 57 million adult bicyclists across the country.

Similar bike components that are not produced in the United States are already exempt from tariffs in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule. Without a domestic producer of compatible components, bike companies should not be required to pay duties. This legislation will level the playing field for the industry which provides one of the cleanest, healthiest, most efficient, and environmentally friendly modes of transportation that exists.

#### THE SIXTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEROIC BATTLE OF CRETE

**HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly today to celebrate the 64th anniversary of the Battle of Crete, a World War II event of epic proportions that profoundly impacted on the